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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0684

UNCLAS BELGRADE 000539

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OTRA ASEC CMGT SR

SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR RYAN C. LEONG

REF: State 53075

¶1. Embassy Belgrade grants country clearance and warmly welcomes Ryan C. Leong, Political Officer, from April 22 to May 2, 2007 for consultations with Embassy officials.

¶2. The Embassy's offices are located at Kneza Milosa 50, Belgrade. The Embassy's switchboard telephone number is 381-11-361-9344; the fax number is 381-11-361-8230. Normal Embassy working hours are Monday- Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The after hours (Post 1) telephone number is 381-11-306-4679. Reservations have been made for visitor on the night of 27 April - 2 May 2007 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Belgrade, Tel. 381-11-301-1234. Post understands that no further assistance is requested.

¶3. Credit cards are accepted at hotels, some restaurants and major supermarkets in Belgrade; however, for travel within Serbia outside Belgrade travelers should bring enough cash for expenses. Accommodation exchange is available through the Embassy cashier with a copy of your travel orders. There is a \$1,000.00 per week limit. Personal and travelers' checks are acceptable at the Embassy. The Raiffeisen Bank ATM is available at the Embassy's Post One lobby. However, this machine does not accept Mastercard, American Express nor Diners Club cards.

¶5. American citizens do not need visas to enter Serbia for a stay up to 90 days. Upon arrival in Belgrade, the Embassy will meet and assist you on arrival at the airport. On departure, you should be aware that some US carrier connections via major hubs around Europe require an overnight in transit. Personnel not staying in a hotel are required to register with local police within 24 hours of arrival.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

¶6. Travelers entering Serbia with more than 2000 Euros in cash are required to declare all currency upon entry and obtain from customs officials a declaration form that must be presented at departure. Failure to comply may result in the confiscation of all funds. The U.S. Embassy has been contacted by many American citizens who have failed to comply with this requirement and consequently had thousands of dollars seized by the Government of Serbia. It is advisable to contact the Embassy of Serbia in Washington for specific information regarding customs requirements.

SECURITY

17. Official U.S. presence has been continuous in Belgrade since October 2000 and personnel have experienced few untoward incidents. The impression given by the general public is that there is support for the return of USG personnel. However, visitors should not take photos of buildings damaged or destroyed in the NATO bombing campaign. Random street crimes, such as pick pocketing and car vandalism, are the most commonly reported incidents. There are very serious information security concerns and strict security procedures are to be maintained regarding computer processing and sensitive discussions.

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